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# ◆ CERB NEWS ◆

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WASHINGTON STATE COMMUNITY, TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

INVESTING IN WASHINGTON'S ECONOMIC FUTURE

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At the January 16, 2003 meeting, CERB approved state loan and grant investments of economic development infrastructure for the Port of Sunnyside, the City of Prosser and the City of Richland totaling \$1,847,049. The new businesses in Benton and Yakima counties associated with these projects are expected to create 171 new jobs and retain 190 existing jobs.

## ***CITY OF RICHLAND:***

The City of Richland in Benton County received conditional approval for a \$780,000 loan and \$183,000 grant to construct a 2,500 foot extension of Battelle Boulevard, traffic signal improvements, and a 1,600 foot extension of a city-owned rail spur. These improvements will allow for the development and sale of a 75-acre site to Ferguson Enterprises, Inc., one of the nation's largest suppliers of plastic pipe products to construction and manufacturing companies. Ferguson will construct a 350,000 square foot warehouse and distribution facility and estimates 90 full-time jobs will be created. Ferguson has 700 locations nationally; the Richland facility will serve Northern California, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Montana, and Washington.

## ***CITY OF PROSSER:***

The City of Prosser in Benton County received conditional approval for a \$384,049 loan to construct water, sewer, and roadway improvements that will provide service to the Port of Benton's North Prosser Business Park to site a 245,280 sq. ft. bonded wine warehouse, owned by the Stravinski Development Group. The bonded wine warehouse will be the first such development of its kind in eastern Washington and will serve wineries on a regional basis. Eastern Washington wineries will benefit from the warehouse by reducing transportation costs, deferring taxation until the product actually leaves the warehouse, and freeing up valuable inventory space in winery operations. The Stravinski Development Group estimates 20 full-time jobs will be created.

## ***PORT OF SUNNYSIDE:***

The Port of Sunnyside in Yakima County received conditional approval for a \$500,000 loan to construct a Sequencing Batch Reactor facility for the port's industrial wastewater treatment plant. The SBR will perform aeration and sedimentation processes at a faster pace than the current system, which will put the Port back in compliance with its Department of Ecology permit. The SBR pre-treats the wastewater, ensuring that what is delivered to the wastewater lagoons contains less nitrate, chloride and total dissolved solids. Seventeen different companies depend on the SBR to retain business operations totaling nearly 800 at risk jobs. Two of the businesses will expand immediately upon completion of the SBR facility. Johnson Foods will expand its food processing operation to run 12 months a year in response to new customer demand. The expansion will create an estimated 49 new full-time jobs. Darigold WestFarm Foods will build and operate a new cheese shredding operation that will create 12 new full-time jobs. Improvements to the SBR facility, which will allow Johnson Foods and Darigold WestFarm Foods to continue operations, will retain 115 and 75 full-time jobs respectively (which are included within the 800 retained jobs noted above).

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## CERB BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF JANUARY, 2003

### GOVERNOR APPOINTED

**Judith Boekholder, Board Chair**  
Toppenish, Washington  
City Official

**LeRoy Allison**  
Warden, Washington  
County Official

**Vicki Gordon**  
Pasco, Washington  
Small Business Representative

**Vacant**  
Small Business Representative

**Jack Pittis**  
Port Angeles, Washington  
Public Representative

**Joe Pinzone**  
Camas, Washington  
Large Business Representative

**Terry Knapton**  
Airway Heights, Washington  
Large Business Representative

**Jeffrey Matson, Vice Chair**  
Sunnyside, Washington  
Port Official

**Tom Trulove**  
Cheney, Washington  
Public Sector Economist

**Leroy Williams**  
Bremerton, Washington  
Small Business Representative

**Miland Walling**  
Bickleton, Washington  
Small Business Representative

### PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

**Senator Betti Sheldon**  
Joint Legislative Committee  
on Economic Development

**Senator Tim Sheldon**  
Senate Economic  
Development Committee

**Representative Dan Newhouse**  
House Trade & Economic  
Development Committee

**Representative Velma Veloria**  
House Trade & Economic  
Development Committee

### AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

**Elizabeth Robbins**  
Department of Transportation

**Gary Kamimura**  
Employment Security Department

**Robin Pollard**  
Community Trade and  
Economic Development

**Skeets Johnson**  
Department of Revenue

### CERB/CEAC

**Kate Rothschild**  
CERB Program Manager

**April Wilson**  
CERB Program Assistant

**Tina Cohen**  
Special Projects Manager

**Dara Fredericksen, Managing Dir.**  
Community Economic  
Assistance Center

### PROJECT DEV. SERVICES

**Dick Larman, Managing Director**  
Project Development Services

**Brent Bahrenburg**  
Project Development

**Terry Lawhead**  
Project Development

**Bob Sandoval**  
Project Development

## 2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Executive request legislation (HB 1032 and SB 5363) proposes to add an estimated \$900,000 per year to the Community Economic Revitalization Board's financial assistance programs by allowing CERB to retain interest earnings from the Public Works Assistance Account beginning July 1, 2005.

Since 1982, CERB has provided funding for publicly owned economic development infrastructure to encourage new industrial development and expansion in areas where growth is desired. Despite the program's effectiveness, it has never had a stable, permanent funding source.

Legislation passed in 2002 began to address this issue by: 1) transferring to CERB over a 5-year period (FY 2003 through FY 2007) \$18.9 million in loan repayments from Public Works Trust Fund Timber and Natural Resources projects; and 2) allowing CERB to retain interest earnings on its Public Facilities Construction Loan Revolving Account beginning July 1, 2004 (approximately \$200,000/year). Once the five-year transfer of loan payments is complete, CERB funding once again drops dramatically.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

*March 20, 2003 - Board Mtg.*

*May 15, 2003 - Board Mtg.*

CERB is a state economic development resource strategically focused to help business and industry create and retain jobs in partnership with local communities.

CERB provides financing for construction of public facilities that support private sector development and increased employment opportunities.

Management support is provided by Community, Trade & Economic Development, Washington's lead agency charged with enhancing and promoting sustainable economic vitality throughout the state.

Communities with potential projects are encouraged to contact CERB staff  
at 360.725.4058 or by e-mail to: [KateR@cted.wa.gov](mailto:KateR@cted.wa.gov)

